

February 10, 2009

Speaker of the House  
Robert DeLeo  
State House  
Boston, MA

Dear Speaker DeLeo:

We are writing to ask you to support the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, a single payer health care bill for the State and to use your leadership position to help move it through the House. This bill would provide high quality health care for all, and according to health economists would save the State \$9 billion a year , thereby solving the budget crisis for the State. Towns such as ours have found that health care costs of town employees are crippling budgets. In Amherst, between 2000 and 2006 health care costs rose 132%, greatly exceeding the revenue from property taxes, which increased by about 20%. The cost of health care for just this year in Massachusetts is to be \$1.3 billion, the highest per capita spending in the world; we must move to a better, more cost effective system. A single payer system would provide excellent health care for all our residents and be cost effective. It would also be a magnet for businesses to move to Massachusetts and thereby improve our economy.

We, the Select Board of Amherst, urge your support for the Massachusetts Heath Care Trust!